Memorandum by Bihar Chamber of Commerce

785. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar Chamber of Commerce have submitted any memorandum to Planning Commission regarding the backwardness of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Memorandum relates to low royalty on mineral wealth, freight equalisation policy (on iron and steel), flood and improper harnessing of water resources, low central investment in infrastructure, low central investment in projects, low investment by all India financial institutions and banks and basis of disbursal of central investible funds. As the question involves different Ministries, it will take time to examine it.

National Commission for backward regions

786. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 628 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th September, 1991 and state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute a National Commission for the development of Backward regions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In our Federal Constitution, States have their own entity and jurisdiction. Development of any area falling within their jurisdiction is primarily their responsibility. It may go against the grain of federal structure if any attempt is made to bring under Central control all backward areas of the country.

Panel to review projects behind schedule

787. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a high powered panel to review mega and major projects running behind schedule;

(b) whether any specific recommendation has been made by the panel so far; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. A Committee under the chairmanship of Finance Secretary with the Secretaries, Deptt. of Expenditure, Deptt. of Programme Implementation, the concerned administrative Ministries/Deptt. as members, has been constituted to review the cases of time and cost overruns in respect of large projects, each costing Rs. 200 Crores and above.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Finalisation of Eighth Plan in the light of the performance of the Seventh Plan

788. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have reviewed the performance of the Seventh Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the positive and negative aspects of the appraisal; and

(c) whether these would be taken care of while finalising the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The performance of the economy during the 7th Plan in terms of broad macro economic indicators has been reviewed.

(b) During the Seventh Plan the Gross Domestic Product at factor cost increased at an annual average rate of 5.6% as against the target of 5% per annum. The public sector plan expenditure was around 98.1% in real terms of the approved plan outlay for the Seventh Plan. As reported in the Economic Survey (1990-91) the output of agricultural sector recorded an annual average growth rate of 4.1% as against the Seventh Plan annual target of 4%. Among the major industrial sub-sectors, the output in the manufacturing industries recorded a growth of 8.8% exceeding the target of 8 per centage per annum. However, the output growth in mining and quarrying at 5.7% per annum and of electricity generation at 9.4% per annum fell short of the Seventh Plan targets of 13% and 12% respectively. The savings performance of the public sector the pattern of financing the plan, the overall balance of payment position (inspite of a bouyant trend in exports) have also been the disquieting features of the Seventh Plan Performance.

(c) The performance of the economy during the Seventh Plan would be kept in view in formulating the Eighth Five Year Plan.

राजस्थान में सौर विद्युत संयंत्र परियोजना के संबंध में प्रगति

789. **श्री भंवर लाल पंवार**: क्या योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राजस्थान के मथानिया ग्राम में स्थापित की जाने वाली सौर विद्युत संयंत्र परियोजना का योजना दस्तावेज कितने समय से विचाराधीन है; और

(ख) योजना आयोग द्वारा इसे कब स्वीकृत कर दिये जाने की संभावना है?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री हंसराज भारद्वाज): (क) और (ख) राजस्थान सरकार के योजना प्रस्तावों में सौर ऊर्जा संयंत्र परियोजना के लिए प्रस्ताव को शामिल कर लिया गया है। इसे तकनीकी-आर्थिक स्वीकृति के लिए केन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण (सी.ई.ए.) को मई, 1991 में भेजा गया है। केन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण के तकनीकी-आर्थिक मूल्यांकन के बाद परियोजना को अनुमोदन के लिए प्रस्तुत किया जाएगा।

Central Projects in Assam

790. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:
KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Times of India dated October, 20, 1991 regarding clearance of Central Projects in Assam; and

(b) if so, the names of these Projects together with their cost, the benefit to accrue and the probable date of completion of each of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting chaired by the Prime Minister was held on 21-10-1991 and 22-10-1991 to discuss pending Assam projects requiring a decision at the Government of India level.